RUSSIA REPEATEDLY WARNS NATO AGAINST RAPID EASTWARD EXPANSION

MOSCOW, Jul 19, Interfax-BNS - Moscow's readiness for increased cooperation with NATO doesn't mean that it would agree to the alliance's expansion to the east, a senior Russian foreign ministry official told Interfax news agency. The diplomat said that if NATO begins rapidly expanding to the east, "there will be changes in Moscow's attitude toward concrete cooperation with that bloc." NATO has offered draft jointly with Russia, a document laying down the issues on which bilateral consultations should take place between NATO and Moscow.

NEW HEAD OF LITHUANIAN OIL REFINERY APPOINTED

VILNIUS, Jul 17, BNS - Lithuanian Energy Minister Arvydas Lescinskas has appointed Gediminas Kiesus as the new managing director of the Mazeikiai oil refinery, officials said Monday. Kiesus was the refinery's acting head since mid-May when his predecessor Bronislovas Vainora resigned. Kiesus, 40, is a graduate of the Kaunas Polytechnic Institute. He came to work at Mazeikiai in 1979 and was appointed as the refinery's deputy director 1 and one-half years ago. In an interview with the daily Lietuvos Rytas, he stressed that Mazeikiai must undergo serious reconstruction to be able to work according to European standards. Mazeikiai now mainly refines oil supplied by foreign companies but had to be shut down already five times this year because of raw material shortages.

LITHUANIA GETS OFFICIAL INVITATION TO ATLANTA OLYMPICS

VILNIUS, Jul 21, BNS - Lithuania on Thursday received an official invitation for its athletes to participate in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. An answer to the International Olympic Committee must be given within one month. "It (the answer) will of course be positive," said Arturas Poviliunas, president of the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee. Poviliunas told BNS that Lithuania plans to send about 80 athletes to Atlanta, primarily those capable of winning the highest awards. The financing of the Lithuanian Olympic delegation is currently under discussion. The government is also holding negotiations with local and foreign sponsors. Olympic invitations to all countries, including Lithuania, were delivered by United Parcel Service, one of the companies sponsoring the Atlanta Olympics. UPS representatives in Lithuania have said that the company also intends to cover the expenses of transmitting photographs from Atlanta to Lithuanian newspapers during the games.